

## STIMULATE INTEREST IN MINERAL WEALTH

### International Mining Convention Wants Removal of Fixed Price on Silver Bullion—Capital Prospectors Needed

THE International Mining Convention was held in Vancouver on March 17th, 18th and 19th. Most of the time was devoted to the discussion of the most promising fields for prospecting throughout British Columbia. That there is now a dearth of men engaged in the pursuit of locating new mineral deposits was admitted by the speakers, and in the case of William Brewer, Nanaimo, it was stated that twenty years ago there were about 500 prospectors throughout the province, while to-day there are not more than ten.

Geo A. Clothier, Prince Rupert, who is in charge of district No. 1, after relating the geological conditions of the north-western section, described the geographical advantages offered. "Six hundred miles of coast line is what we have there," he said, "which is a natural solution to the transportation problem that exists in many places in this country. Notwithstanding the Bear River boom of 1910-11, in which many people gathered considerable experience, the first district will ultimately prove to be the greatest mining country on the continent.

"One of the errors that has been made in the past by men who undertook to cash in on natural resources is that, instead of being satisfied with \$25,000 for their claims, they have held out for \$100,000, and thereby scared away the investor." Continuing, the speaker stated that the production in his district last year amounted to \$10,000,000. In concluding, Mr. Clothier expressed the hope that every effort would be made to have prospecting included in the vocational training programme for returned soldiers, that they would be fitted to take advantage of the untold wealth now lying dormant, waiting for the hand and mind of man to bring it to the surface and convert it into wealth.

John D. Galloway, of Hazelton, in describing the conditions existing in district number two, said that the section over which he has jurisdiction contained an area of 100,000 square miles. "The history of placer gold mining in the district goes back to the early sixties," said Mr. Galloway. "At that time the old town of Barkerville was in the hey-day of its career. Production reached a maximum in 1863, when the total output was around \$4,000,000. The values fluctuated thereafter until last year the production was valued at \$200,000."

#### District Number Two

Speaking of the coal deposits in district No. 2, Mr. Galloway declared that there is 8,200,000 metric tons as yet undisturbed. He specified the Babine range as being particularly rich in gold deposits. "In the Peace River section of the district, where a cretaceous sedimentary formation is found, are huge deposits of high-grade bituminous coal," continued the speaker.

"In No. 4 district there are platinum values that will of necessity be brought into prominence before long," said Mr. P. B. Freeman, of Grand Forks. "With the Russian supply, which has heretofore practically supplied the world on a production of 300,000 ounces a year, being rapidly diminished, other sources from which to secure the metal must be found, and I believe that it is then that the southern holdings will come into its own."

#### Capital Prospectors Needed

A. G. Langley, Revelstoke, who is in charge of the eastern district, No. 5, stated that there are over one hundred producing mines in his district and as many more in various stages of development. "It might be interesting to note," he said, "that in 1917 the district returned the entire lead-zinc production of the province; over 70 per cent. of the silver output; 27 per cent. of the gold and 28 per cent. of the coal mined." He gave the 1918 production a value of \$9,000,000.

"What we need is more capital and prospectors. Many properties are lying idle which could undoubtedly be worked

at a profit. There are many small high-grade deposits that can be worked by two or three men, and to these I hope the attention of men returning from the field of battle will be directed."

"The opportunities are boundless," said Mr. Wm. Brewer, of Nanaimo, "but it takes prospectors to locate the claims. Twenty years ago there were over 500 prospectors hereabouts; now there are not more than ten real ones," he added. "The prospector is a lonesome man," continued Mr. Brewer. "He has no family, as a rule, and when he dies there are no sons to carry on where he left off. Prospectors are born with each generation, and it is thereby necessary for us to train new material to foster the industry on which the future of British Columbia depends to a large extent."

Fleet Robson, provincial mineralogist, also gave a short address, outlining developments during the past year and presaging a bright future for the industry throughout the province.

#### Stimulate Interest

Efforts to stimulate interest in the mineral resources of British Columbia crystallized in the adoption of a resolution at the closing session of the convention on March 18th.

Chief among the actions urged by the delegates in attendance was that the University of British Columbia make more adequate provision for the enlargement of its departments relating to mineralogy. It was shown that, while the university budget contains a yearly grant of \$75,000 for agricultural extension, that the geological and mining departments combined receive less than \$15,000.

The resolution as adopted in this respect was:—

"That the mining industry receive from the university the attention rightly due to us, and urge that the departments of geology and mining receive budgets commensurate with their importance."

The consensus of opinion, as expressed in the discussion following the motion, was that the mineral resources of British Columbia is the chief provincial asset, and that the provincial educational system should be so designed to exact therefrom all possible benefits. Resolution carried unanimously.

#### Price of Silver Discussed

Considerable discussion attended a resolution:—

"That the Canadian government be asked to urge the discontinuance by Great Britain and its Allies of the present fixed price for silver, which keeps below its fair value based on demand. As a silver producer Canada has lost and is losing heavily through the present price limitation." Champions of the resolution contended that Canada is deprived of between five and six million dollars annually under the fixed scale, and insisted that the British valorization be removed. It was stated that silver is a commodity, and should, therefore, be allowed to find its level of valuation under the law of supply and demand. Those in favor of the fixed price asserted that the demand for silver would exceed the supply for some years to come.

Those opposing the measure based their objection on a contention that the question was of an Imperial nature, and that the fixation had been established by Great Britain in conjunction with the United States to stave off financial panic in India.

## BRANDRAM-HENDERSON BONDS

Nesbitt, Thomson and Co., of Montreal and Hamilton, are offering on the Canadian markets an issue of \$655,000 of 20-year 6 per cent. consolidated mortgage sinking fund gold bonds of Brandram-Henderson, Ltd. The Brandram-Henderson Co. has recently closed the most successful year in its history. For some years past the business has shown steady growth and expansion, and it was stated that the purposes of the present bond issue are to consolidate the finances of the company, to meet necessary capital expenditures and provide for the continuous expansion of the company's business. The bonds are being offered at 94½, to yield 6½ per cent.